

## Jewish sect asks to join Palestinian delegation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A sect of ultra-orthodox Jews who think Israel's existence is a sin has asked to join a Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, the group's leader said Monday. The Neturei Karta group wants to be part of a Palestinian state if hopes will be created in a peace settlement, said Rabbi Moshe Hirsch. Rabbi Hirsch said Neturei Karta ("Guardians of the City") is therefore entitled to be represented. "We want to assure the safeguarding of the Palestinian Jewish residents, their rights and well-being" in a future state, Rabbi Hirsch said. Rabbi Hirsch and his followers argue that a Jewish state can only be created after the mission comes and that Israel's existence is a sin. Rabbi Hirsch said Neturei Karta has 65,000 followers, but reference books say the number is in the hundreds. The group was founded in 1925. Rabbi Hirsch said Palestinian leaders promised his request for representation would be taken up by the Palestine National Council at its session last month. Rabbi Hirsch said he has not received an answer and would meet Tuesday with Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein in Jerusalem to discuss the matter.

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**Jordan  
and PLO  
agree on  
'working  
mechanism'**

By Marwan Shakkir  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestinians have agreed on a mechanism for cooperation that will ensure the effective representation of the interests of both parties at the Middle East peace conference to be held in Madrid on Oct. 30, senior government sources said Monday.

After weeks of deliberations and reservations on both sides about the framework for an effective coordination and working plan among the different committees and members of the joint delegation and about the extent of possible cooperation, a "working mechanism" has been agreed upon, a senior official told the Jordan Times.

The "working mechanism" is based on a Jordanian-Palestinian political agreement, which also outlines the basis of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

"The Jordanian side will have some Palestinian advisers and vice-versa in the joint delegation which will have 28 members — 14 from each side," the official said. "In this manner there will be no confusion and the negotiations will be unified in content and character," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

The two sides to the joint delegation will thus be able to keep each other informed of developments in negotiations and coordinate with each other, he said.

The Jordanian side of the delegation will have one or more Jerusalem-born Palestinians as well as Palestinians who live outside the occupied territories, the official confirmed.

The inclusion of Jerusalem-born and Palestinians living outside the occupied territories in the delegation circumvents the Israeli refusal to deal with East Arab Jerusalemites and Palestinians in the diaspora.

Ghassan Al Khatib, a Palestinian activist tipped to be a member of the delegation, told the Jordan Times a steering committee has been drawn up of Palestinians who do not meet Israel's conditions to be included in the delegation itself (see separate story).

Israeli officials have said that what mattered to them was American assurances that no PLO members will be in the joint delegation.

As of Monday evening, no decision was made as to who will lead the delegation, but officials said it was highly likely that a senior Jordanian official, possibly the foreign minister, will be the head.

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, the foreign minister, told reporters Monday that "we are still studying the names of Jordanians who will make up the Jordanian delegation to the peace conference, and by the end of this week, we will have a clearer picture about who will participate."

Essentially, the political agreement signed by Jordan and the Palestinians gives an influential but latent role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the negotiations so that Israel cannot torpedo the peace conference by citing its objections to dealing with the PLO.

A joint Jordanian-Palestinian higher committee has been formed headed by His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. It includes Jordanian ministers and members of the PLO Executive Committee. Sub-committees include senior officials from both sides to deal with various technical issues.

Apart from spelling out the nature and make-up of the delegation, the Jordanian-Palestinian political agreement includes other issues such as the number of participants, the number of speeches to be delivered at the peace conference and by whom they are to be read as well as presidency of the delegation, the Associated Press reported.

## Soviets assure Jordan they will seek halt to Israeli settlements at start of talks

By P.V. Vivekanand  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — The Soviet Union, co-sponsor of the Oct. 30 Middle East peace conference in Madrid, will exert all efforts within its reach to bring about a halt in Israeli settlements simultaneously with the start of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in the Spanish capital, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said Monday.

In official reports of Mr. Pankin's talks in Amman Sunday and Monday as well as in his own comments to the press prior to his departure for Cairo, the Soviet minister emphasised that his country viewed the Israeli settlements policy as a violation of international legitimacy and violated Geneva conventions.

According to an informed source, Mr. Pankin has given assurance to the Jordanian side that "the Soviet Union will muster as much pressure as it can and apply it on Israel to ensure that building settlements comes to a halt by the time the peace conference starts."

In comments to reporters at the airport, where Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber saw him off to

Cairo, Mr. Pankin said:

"This point (Israeli settlements) was one of the issues we discussed in Jordan, and the Soviet Union, being one of the main sponsors (of the Madrid conference), will do all it can to help solve this issue," he said. "It will be one of the important topics to be handled at the peace conference," he said.

Answering a question on Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, Mr. Pankin pointed out that the relaxed Soviet emigration policies applied to all Soviet citizens. But, he said, it is Moscow's understanding that Israel will not settle any of the Soviet Jewish emigres in the occupied territories.

Mr. Pankin and Dr. Abu Jaber described their talks in Amman as very successful and fruitful, but neither of them revealed any details of the discussions.

In discussions with Mr. Pankin, Prime Minister Taher Masri underlined the importance Jordan attaches to the Soviet role in the peace process and highlighted Jordanian concern over the continuing Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied territories.

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## Arafat meets Mubarak, says PLO closely involved in peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, putting aside Gulf war differences, met for talks out of the public eye Monday in the run-up to next week's historic peace conference in Madrid.

Mr. Arafat, received by Mr. Mubarak for the first time since the start of the Gulf crisis, told a news conference with Foreign Minister Amr Musa that he appointed the principal Palestinian negotiator with the United States on terms for the next week's Middle East peace conference.

Although widely suspected, it was the first time Mr. Arafat said he appointed Faisal Husseini to represent the Palestinians in contact with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

But at a news conference, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader made no claim that he or the PLO assumed Palestinian delegates to the superpower-sponsored conference.

Nevertheless, he said that although the PLO is physically excluded from the conference, it will be actively involved in it on two levels. Not only will the PLO coordinate closely with Palestinian delegates, he said, but the delegates effectively are repre-

senting the PLO.

Mr. Arafat discussed Mr. Husseini's appointment in response to a question whether Mr. Baker's contacts with Palestinians from inside the occupied territories meant the PLO was excluded from the peace process.

"Don't forget," Mr. Arafat said. "I appointed Husseini to head the team of pre-conference negotiations."

Mr. Arafat identified Haider Abdul Shafi, 72, as head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference but made no similar claim of appointing him.

Mr. Arafat's comments on his participation in the peace process seemed aimed at Israel, which with U.S. backing insists that the PLO be excluded from peace efforts.

Mr. Arafat spoke after conferring for 90 minutes with President Mubarak. The meeting followed Mr. Arafat's arrival from Amman for the first visit in more than 14 months.

Until agreement was reached on the peace conference, Egyptian officials had made Mr. Arafat unwelcome in Cairo because of his support of Iraq.

Mr. Mubarak last week said he would meet with Mr. Arafat only to help the peace process. Monday's meeting was kept low-key,

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## Hostage freed despite Israeli attack on Hizbullah base

BEIRUT (Agencies) —

Lebanese kidnappers freed American Jesse Turner Monday after holding him hostage for nearly five years, security sources said.

They said Mr. Turner was freed by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (JLP) in Lebanon at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT) and handed over to Syrian security officers.

Israel paved the way for Mr. Turner's release earlier in the day by freeing 15 Lebanese prisoners.

The security sources said 44-year-old Mr. Turner, held for 1,731 days, was being driven to Damascus where he would be handed over to U.S. diplomats at the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Turner was the fourth Western hostage released since kidnappers called on U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to intervene to stop an Israeli siege of villages and Israeli attacks on them.

Israeli warplanes flattened a medical base of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God) near Jibsheet in revenge for the killing of three Israeli soldiers Sunday.

There were no casualties in Monday's air strike, the first by Israeli warplanes into Lebanon in three months. The raid followed

Israeli shelling of a string of villages in the south.

Jibsheet is the hometown of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obied, a Hizbullah cleric kidnapped by Israeli soldiers in July 1989. He is the most prominent prisoner held by Israel who kidnap groups want freed.

Islamic Jihad said Monday's air raid was a savage attack "on innocents in the village of Jibsheet."

The enemy did not stop these inhuman practices but also escalated its attacks through a barbaric siege on villages which caused damage and harm to unarmed civilians," Islamic Jihad said.

"These acts represent a real image of the hypocritical intentions of the invading Zionist enemy and its continuation in the policy of killing, displacement and planting fear and terror in the souls of Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine," it added.

The Israeli-supported South Lebanon Army (SLA) imposed an indefinite curfew on 12 villages in southern Lebanon Monday, a day after three Israeli soldiers were killed in a bomb explosion.

Police said Israeli troops and

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation



## Hrawi seeks French assistance

PARIS (R) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi started an official visit to France Monday, seeking help to rebuild his country's armed forces to take over fully when Syrian troops are scheduled to withdraw next year. Mr. Hrawi lunched with President Francois Mitterrand amid heavy security after exiled opponents protested against his two-day visit and dubbed him a Syrian "collaborator." The French term used for those who served the wartime Nazis. Mr. Hrawi has said he wants to revive the historic friendship with France, which ruled Lebanon and Syria between the two world wars under a League of Nations mandate, and seek aid to rebuild electricity and telephone networks ravaged by 15 years of civil war. But he pointed out that he was travelling with his defence minister, chief of paramilitary gendarmerie and head of police. "To discuss what? Literature?" he asked in an interview with the daily *Le Figaro*. He said he would tell French authorities Lebanon's armed forces were decimated by the civil war and needed equipment and training. Lebanese forces had started deploying in South Lebanon "like beggars," using 120 old T-55 and T-31 Soviet tanks donated by Syria and 31 tanks supplied by Libya, he said.



Prime Minister Taher Masri Monday holds talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Palestinian delegates due here Friday

By Louis K. Andoni

*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — The Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is expected to arrive here Friday from the Israeli-occupied territories for coordination with the Jordanian government prior to the convening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid at the end this month.

The delegates are due here on Friday for coordination and the joint team will leave for Madrid from Amman on October 29," said Dr. Ghassan Al Khatib, who is expected to be on the Palestinian delegation, before going back to the West Bank on Monday.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is not allowed by the U.S. and Israel to play a direct role in the peace talks, will remain the party that carried out political coordination with Jordan, Palestinian officials noted. Therefore, a high-level PLO team will also be present in Amman next week to work out final details on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian strategy at the peace talks and mechanism of the joint negotiating team, the officials added.

The main basis of coordination between Jordan and the Palestinians has been already agreed upon at a round of important talks between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Amman Sunday.

Egyptian newspapers quoted Cairo's foreign minister as ruling out such an Arab mini-summit prior to the peace conference.

Abdul Rahim Mallouh, a PLO Executive Committee member, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that a meeting of the five parties at ministerial level would be held in Damascus Wednesday. An unidentified Syrian official also made a similar comment.

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## Jordan's position on regional talks to be decided soon, Abu Jaber says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is hopeful that a coordination meeting of the five Arab parties directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict would be held soon and considers Egypt as an essential party in the Middle East peace process, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Monday.

Mr. Abu Jaber said he was not aware of any definite plan for the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt and the head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to meet in Damascus Wednesday ahead of the Middle East peace conference.

The Palestinian leader has been touring the region for strategy talks prior to the peace conference. He made his first visit to Syria in eight years before going to Jordan.

A delegation comprising Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza has been formed to attend the conference. Another group from the two territories will advise the delegation without sitting in.

Events of the past week left no doubt that the PLO leadership chose the Palestinian negotiators despite the lack of confirmation from Mr. Arafat.

Nabil Shaath, Arafat political adviser, told the Associated Press Sunday that a PLO team will sit in the wings in Madrid to coordinate with the advisory delegation, which will be in direct contact with the negotiators.

Asked how the PLO would coordinate with the Palestinians at the conference, Mr. Arafat replied: "Don't worry. We will coordinate in an excellent way."

Mr. Arafat also skirted a question as to whether he expects that

meeting will take place since it will offer us an opportunity to unify ranks and exchange views on each other's stand."

Prospects of convening a summit conference of the leaders of the five parties were one of the key themes of talks held between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Amman Sunday.

Egyptian newspapers quoted Cairo's foreign minister as ruling out such a meeting will take place in Damascus but he did not give a timing for the gathering, seen as crucial to Arab coordination ahead of the Madrid talks.

Dr. Abu Jaber, in comments to reporters after seeing off Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on Sunday also met with Dr. Khatib and Ms. Zahira Kamal, a Palestinian woman leader who is also expected to be on the Palestinian team.

Shamir says he still has to vet Palestinian team

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday he still had to ensure the proposed Palestinian delegation met Israel's terms for attending Middle East peace talks.

"This is an issue we must analyze, examine and we will see if this list meets the rules we have accepted," Mr. Shamir told a news conference before leaving for Europe where he will address the European Parliament.

"We will have to check the names and we will act accordingly," he said at the airport.

Mr. Shamir spoke after the top Palestinian negotiator at the peace talks scheduled to open in Madrid on Oct. 30 said his team would if necessary state delegates were members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"In the sense that all Palestinians have allegiance to the PLO, so they are," Haider Abdul Shafi, 72, told army radio when asked if his delegation would represent the PLO.

Israel had vowed to walk out of the Madrid conference if Palestinians identify themselves as PLO representatives.

Mr. Shamir had demanded that Palestinians with the PLO or from Arab East Jerusalem be barred from the peace conference and from subsequent negotiations between Israel and individual Arab delegations.

However, Mr. Shamir's support Friday for the talks by saying the Palestinian delegation met its terms. The actual names were not released by Washington or the Palestinians.

The Palestinians, angered at the Israeli-imposed limits on who can speak for them, apparently won U.S. support for a mechanism to bring some of the banned figures along to the talks in the form of advisers to the delegation.

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**Yilmaz quits as Demirel wins poll to challenge Ozal**

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's prime minister resigned Monday and indicated the conservative Motherland Party founded by President Turgut Ozal would move into the opposition after a major setback in general elections.

Premier Mesut Yilmaz's resignation paved the way for the formation of Turkey's first coalition government since the military seized power in 1980 to end imperialist, liquidationist schemes," it said.

The leftist Palestinians and Muslim fundamentalists called on their supporters among the residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to intensify their opposition to the conference.

The PLO's Fatah movement, the Communist Party and a breakaway faction of

## Iraq's food prices hit by stiffer sanctions rumours

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government pledged Monday to flood the market with food following a two-day surge in prices caused by wild rumours of stiffer trade sanctions to punish its defiance of the United Nations.

Trade Minister Mohammad Mchdi Saleh said in remarks published by the official media that flour, sugar, rice, oil and tea would be sent to government shops for sale at state-controlled prices — about a quarter of those on the free market.

The government's Al Jumhuriya newspaper and Al Thawra, organ of the ruling Baath Party, both reported the weekend food price rises and the minister's remarks without commenting on the rumours which swept the capital at the weekend.

"Large quantities of foodstuff will flood shopping centres to day," ran the headline in Al Jumhuriya in an apparent attempt to calm panic buying which continued to send food prices higher Monday.

There was little evidence that more food had reached Baghdad's markets. Traders said they had been cleaned out of goods by

frenzied weekend buying and what was on sale was at marked-up prices.

The souks of Baghdad behaved like dealing rooms during an East-West crisis at the weekend because of the sanctions-related rumours which all predicted more shortages and hardship for Iraq's 18 million people because of the U.N. trade embargo.

An Al Jumhuriya survey said that sugar had gone up from four to seven dinars per kilo and flour from three to four dinars. Residents spoke of much stiffer rises.

They also reported a sharp increase in the black market rate for dollars — at around eight to 13 dinars, compared with the official rate of one dinar to \$3.10.

The rumours varied wildly, but one often-recounted version said that the U.S. army was stopping trucks on the border with Jordan, Iraq's road lifeline, and taking off goods excluded from a U.N. Sanctions Committee shortlist.

That list allows the import of wheat, rice, sugar, tea and cooking oil but excludes meat, poultry, eggs and milk products — perhaps the most sought after commodity in a market dominated

by shortages.

Another version said the United Nations was itself doing the checking to ensure that trade curbs imposed 13 months ago to punish Iraq's invasion of Kuwait were fully effective.

Both versions said that the tightening of the embargo was a U.S.-inspired response to a defiant Iraq, who president told his nation eight days ago that Iraq "could endure sanctions for another 20 years without asking anything from anyone."

Iraq has so far rejected the terms of U.N. Resolution 706, which would allow Baghdad to sell \$1.6 billion of crude oil and import food and medicine under strict U.N. supervision.

It says sanctions are turning it into a U.N. trusteeship.

Vice-President Izzat Ibrahim took it up on Monday, Al Thawra said. He "has confirmed that the mother of battles is still on, as long as sanctions are imposed on Iraq, which means that those believers and strugglers will have to increase their efforts and be aware of the traps of the enemies who are aiming at the whole Arab Nation by attacking Iraq."

## Tehran paper warns Spain

NICOSIA (AP) — A radical Iranian daily Monday condemned Spain's hosting of an Arab-Israeli peace conference, warning all countries of the dire consequences of facilitating the talks, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRAN) reported.

The Farsi-language Jomhuri

Isami warned Madrid "not to be tempted to join the rank of the countries which support Israel."

It urged the Spanish government to "think of the consequences of becoming the venue of the Middle East conference," and warned that its "decision would certainly prompt some reaction."

The paper said any country or person that helped strengthen Israel "has in fact endorsed the suffering of the Palestinian nation and must be confident it will have to pay back dearly."

Possible acts against the conference, which is due to convene in Madrid on Oct. 30, are a major concern of the Spanish authorities as well as the United States, which has sponsored the talks.

But Jomhuri Isami said its comments were "not a threat, but the expression of a reality."

With Syria, Iran's closest Arab ally, willing to attend the talks, Iran feels isolated in its fiercely anti-Israeli stance.

The rebels have also abducted

## Turkey claims Iraq may be arming Kurdish rebels

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey's foreign minister said Sunday that Turkish Kurdish rebels had obtained anti-aircraft guns and other heavy weapons, and Iraq might be responsible.

But Safi Giray said the government lacked enough evidence to make a formal complaint to Baghdad.

"We have been suspecting that Iraq was providing heavy weapons to the PKK," he said in a telephone interview, using the abbreviation for the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party.

"But we do not have hard evidence."

It was unclear how much support Iraq might be providing to the PKK.

During the Gulf crisis, PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan said in published interviews that Iraq had allowed him to establish bases inside Iraq to strike at Turkey. The move was apparently in retaliation for Turkey's support to the U.S.-led coalition fighting Iraq.

But Iraq's forces left north-east Iraq last April when an allied coalition force established a "security zone." The region is now controlled by Iraqi Kurdish rebels, who are at odds with the PKK.

The PKK, which seeks a separate state in Turkey's southeast, has recently stepped up its attacks on Turkish military targets as the guerrillas' popular support has grown.

The rebels have also abducted Western travellers in southeast-

ern Turkey, including three Americans searching for the remains of Noah's Ark. The kidnappers were apparently to press PKK's claim of sovereignty in the area. The foreigners were later released.

## Village residents, citing health hazards, demand removal of stone quarries

AMMAN (Petra) — Stone quarries in the area of Katam village, south of Irbid are polluting the atmosphere and making living conditions for the 5,000 inhabitants of the village difficult.

Citizens in the village complain that the sky over the village is usually covered with dust clouds mingled with the smoke of the exploded gun powder used in the quarries, causing health hazards in the village.

Katam Mayor Mohammad Ali Al Duweiri said that in response to demands by the citizens living in the northwestern part of the village, he presented a memorandum to the minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment in 1987 and 1988 to move the quarries to other places.

The minister at the time issued an order for the removal of the quarries to a remote area, but the orders were never implemented, Mr. Duweiri



Fayed Al Abbadi

fines on the quarries' owners and forcing them to pay for the damages they caused to people and their properties. The government, he said, is currently studying reports prepared by several committees. He added that these reports deal with the removal of the quarries to other areas and the compensation to farmers for their losses.

The governor said that the removal of the quarries did not take place so far because the issue is awaiting the final verdict at the specialised courts.

The Environment Department in Irbid Governorate supports the transfer of the quarries to other uninhabited areas, according to Khalaf Uqla, an official with the department. Mr. Uqla said a committee comprising specialists from the ministries of public works and environment, the government and the Natural Resources Authority was formed to supervise the trans-

fer of the quarries, "but so far no substitute places were found."

The owner of the biggest quarries in the area, Othman Naseef, said his machinery and equipment are operating on a land owned by him.

"Though, I am ready to move them to another area if a suitable substitute is found," he told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Naseef denied that the quarries cause the spread of diseases in the village and added that his quarries are equipped with special filters.

"Some citizens in the village are demanding the removal of the quarries from the area because they did not get compensation as did some others," Mr. Naseef said.

Another quarry owner expressed his company's readiness to move to another area provided that the government pay for the removal costs and services to the new sites.

## King thanks public for support

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Court Monday issued a statement voicing His Majesty King Hussein's appreciation to members of the public for their support to his announcement that Jordan was attending the peace conference and backing his policies as contained in his nationwide address to the People's Congress earlier this month.

The statement said that King Hussein sends his greetings, gratitude and appreciation to the Jordanian people who expressed their allegiance and support to him through the media and other means. The statement voiced King Hussein's determination to pursue all efforts to serve the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation at large.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, Jordan Television and newspapers have been publishing Jordanian people's views in support of the King's policies and the King's stand with regard to the Middle East process.

Numerous interviews were held with people of all walks of life including heads of political groups, unions, and ordinary citizens who voiced their support for the King's leadership and wished him success in his endeavour to reach a just and honourable peace.

## Prince Raad recognised for work with handicapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Veterans Federation (WVF) has decided to present Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Bin Zeid with an award in recognition of his services to handicapped people in Jordan and his supervision of rehabilitation programmes for handicapped civilians and former servicemen.

The Prince will go to Helsinki to receive the award which is to be presented Sunday at a special ceremony, according to an announcement Monday.

Prince Raad is chairman of the Jordanian Federation of the Handicapped and has been spearheading national efforts to provide various types of services to handicapped people.

Founded in 1950, the WVF aims at maintaining international peace and security by the application of the San Francisco Charter and helping to implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international conventions. It also aims at defending the spiritual and material interests of war veterans and victims and seeks to promote practical international cooperation in fields of disarmament, human rights problems, economic development, rehabilitation of the handicapped, accessibility of the man-made environment, legislation concerning war veterans and victims.

The society's strength is mainly exercising a sort of influence on German economic or political societies due to members and (their influential) positions," said the visiting member.

## Jordan repeats call for assistance from international community

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan again Monday issued an urgent appeal for international aid to help resettle the returnees from Kuwait and other Gulf states and said that the Kingdom lacks the means to offer the necessary services to the returning people.

"We are in constant touch with countries friendly to Jordan and also with the United Nations and other world organisations to come to the aid of Jordan, which is now confronting a serious humanitarian issue of unprecedented proportions," said Salameh Hammad, chairman of the government-appointed returnee affairs committee.

Between Aug. 6, and Oct 21 a total of 35,860 people have returned from Kuwait alone, said Mr. Hammad, who is also Minister of Interior secretary general.

During and after the Gulf crisis Jordan was estimated to have had an influx of more than 300,000 Jordanian and Palestinian returnees from Kuwait. Several meetings were organised by the committee to find means of helping the displaced people.



Salameh Hammad

The committee has so far offered the needy returnees whatever it has received in assistance from various voluntary organisations in Jordan and abroad, said Mr. Hammad in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The volume of aid offered through the committee for the benefit of the returnees did not reach the level of real requirements of food

and medicine that the majority of expatriates need daily, Mr. Hammad said.

He said that the expatriate problem cannot be addressed except through comprehensive programmes designed to incorporate the expatriates within the Jordanian economy, enabling the skilled expatriates to benefit the local community.

The comprehensive programmes needed far exceed Jordan's financial means, and the Kingdom is in dire need of international assistance, Mr. Hammad added. He expressed hope that world organisations and friendly nations will come to the aid of Jordan.

Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz said last month that Jordan was in need of at least \$4.5 billion over the next five years to cope with the huge population increase. He told Reuters that the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Jordan's population to grow by 10 per cent and that the country will be in need of funds to provide for the essential services for the additional number of people.

## Joint Jordanian-Iranian investment seminar being organised in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Industry Monday announced that plans are underway for convening a joint Jordanian-Iranian investment seminar in Amman grouping investors, economists and businessmen from the two countries.

The announcement was made by Chamber President Khalid Abu Hassan, who is just back from a tour of Iran and Turkey where he discussed means of bolstering Jordan's economic and trade ties with the two countries.

The investment seminar aims at further developing Jordan's economic and trade ties

with Iran, Mr. Abu Hassan said. During his stay in Tehran, Mr. Abu Hassan and his accompanying delegation attended the opening of the Tehran International Fair and discussed with Iranian business leaders joint Jordanian-Iranian industrial ventures and cooperation in trade and transport.

He said he had agreed with the Iranians on the formation of a committee to meet every six months in Amman or Tehran to follow up the implementation of joint economic activities.

Mr. Abu Hassan said he signed a memorandum of

understanding for Iranian officials providing for trade exchanges. Agreement was also reached by the two sides to operate direct flights between Amman and Tehran and to pave the way for cooperation in aviation fields, Mr. Abu Hassan added.

The visit to Tehran followed last month's trip there by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abu Raghbeh, who reached agreement with Iranian ministers on a number of procedures designed to open the way for cooperation between the private and public sectors in the two countries.

## German official in Jordan to promote economic, touristic ties

By Nur Sadi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A high ranking member of the Jordan-German Friendship Association in Germany is currently on a 10-day visit to Jordan to seek means of emergency aid, he said that "a plane load of medical aid was brought during the Gulf war."

Although still tentative, a hopeful outcome to the visit is a meeting on Jan. 10 that would host a series of lectures by a professor in Hamburg along with various persons of the German public as well as the Jordanian side.

"Right now we are establishing contacts on that part and nothing has been finalised yet," the member told the Jordan Times.

This initiative might coincide with the 1992 ITB (International Tourist Bureau), where Royal Jordanian will be present to launch a big campaign to promote tourism to Jordan from Germany," he added.

The ITB extends all sorts of offers in the field of tourism and is designed to establish contacts with German and other travel agents.

### New YWCA president elected

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)'s general assembly has elected Lila Najjar as president of the YWCA Council and Rose Muasher as vice president. Mrs. Najjar succeeds Salwa Shweihat, who chaired the YWCA's Council over the last two years.

## The Gallery

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## Organisation formed to promote Arab unity

AMMAN (Petra) — A new forum aimed at contributing to patching up inter-Arab differences caused by their respective stands vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis has recently been established in Amman under the name "The Arab Fraternity Forum," according to the organisation's Secretary Razem Khafash.

The forum's 40 member constituent assembly made the necessary arrangements for establishing the forum, which has been officially registered with the Ministry of Culture.

Shedding light on the forum's philosophy and objectives, Mr. Khafash said the organisation would seek to enhance belonging to the country and to the Arab Nation. It also aims at enhancing Arab solidarity and advancing understanding and cooperation between Arab youth organisations.

The forum aims further to encourage objective dialogue between citizens and upgrade the educational and cultural standards in remote areas through the exchange of expertise and scholarships.

On the means he contemplates to achieve the Forum's objectives, Mr. Khafash said that some of the possible ways to fulfil the forum's objectives were the issuance of publications, holding workshops, lectures and conferences.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Minister receives Chinese official

AMMAN (Petra) — Planning Minister Ziad Fariz Monday discussed with Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Zhang Liang economic and commercial relations between Jordan and China and ways of enhancing them. In a meeting at the Planning Ministry, Dr. Fariz and Mr. Liang discussed projects that might be financed by a JD 6 million Chinese loan extended to Jordan. The JD 6 million is part of a JD 10 million loan of which a sum of JD 4 million was used to finance the purchase of products and commodities for the Civil Consumers Corporation. The meeting was attended by the Ministry's Secretary General Safwan Touqan.

### Art exhibition to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath an exhibition of water colour paintings by Australian artist Jeannine Bowker will be opened Wednesday at Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition will remain open until Oct. 30.

### Environmental seminar to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Society for Combating Environmental Pollution will hold a seminar on "Industry and the Environment" on Nov. 6 at the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Abdur Rauf Shammam, Khalid Kureis and Mohammed Hassiba Abdulla at Abdur Raheem Shammam Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Imad Khayyat, Mohammad Abdulla, Khaled Mandoos, Ali Mandakawi, Khalid Wall and Hamed Ali at Baladina Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Gardens Street from Safeway).
- ★ Art exhibition by Faiza Jaleel Nabulsi at the British Council.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sama Ata at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Sheikh Ibrahim — Johann Ludwig Burckhardt (1784-1917)" at the reception hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Ghassan Abu Laban, Huda Nassar, Abeer Abu Joudah and Samia Haddad at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILM

- ★ German film entitled "Rheinromantik" (English subtitled) at Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.

### The Jordanian Scandinavian Friendship Association

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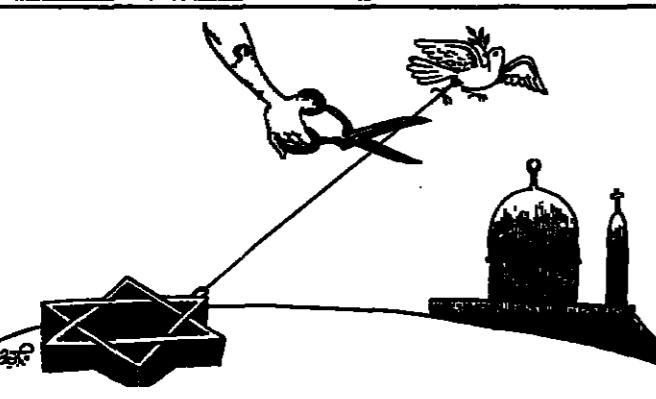
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## Abandon gun-boat diplomacy

WHILE THE world celebrated the news that Middle East antagonists have agreed to attend a peace conference in Madrid on Oct. 30, Israeli warplanes raided a Hezbollah post in South Lebanon. On the eve of the Israeli government's decision to attend the peace talks, an Israeli military court sentenced Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin for life plus 15 years. And in the past two weeks Israeli reconnaissance planes were reported overflying Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. While everyone is bracing for peace, Israel continues to flex its muscle and to create a war-like atmosphere. These Israeli actions can only be viewed by the Arabs as attempts at sabotaging the forthcoming peace conference. Both Sheikh Yassin and the Hezbollah party in Lebanon, together with other Islamic groups in the Arab World, maintain that the Jewish state has no interest in peace and no intention to relinquish occupied territory whether in Palestine, Syria or Lebanon. Israeli actions only give credence to the Islamists' arguments. Obviously the Israelis want to push its antagonists to commit desperate actions that would derail the peace process while offering the pretext to Israel to blame the Arab side for failure of peace efforts. The Israelis have done this in the past, especially before every major war they waged against the Arabs.

Arab leaders have been calling on Israel to abandon its doctrine of force in the region and opt instead for peace. The Arabs will not accept Israel in their midst as long as the Israeli leaders maintain their belief in their might. The Arabs will not accept Israel's hold on Arab lands because of Israeli power and bullying. Israel should not expect that the Arabs will negotiate in Madrid or elsewhere while the Israeli air force flies Arab skies and raids Arab villages. The barriers between Arabs and Israelis and Muslim and Jew are many and Israeli actions only add to them. The time is ripe for dismantling the old walls between the two peoples. The opportunity is here and Israel will be better advised to reflect and to veer towards peace and reconciliation.



### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday said that the Middle East peace conference is not the last chance for the Arabs and the Israelis to end the conflict that lasted 25 years, it is rather the first and serious opportunity for a just and lasting peace. The paper said that it is the first time that the Israelis agree to sit face to face with the Arabs to discuss the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, and it is the first time that the U.S. administration honours its promises and pursues uninterrupted efforts towards peace in this region. Of course one has to admit that missing this chance would be a devastating blow to the peoples of the region, but it is hoped that this first serious chance would not be lost, the paper added. The peace conference, the paper continued, would no doubt expose the real intentions of the Israeli government whether to abide by the international legitimacy or to continue its military against the will of the world community and thus undermine the U.S.-sponsored new world order. The paper said that Washington is now offered a golden opportunity to prove its credibility, not through the use of force, as it did with Iraq, to force it to comply with U.N. resolutions, but through negotiations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday dwelt on the Amman Financial Market's prospects in light of the current talk about peace in the region. Mohammad Jaber said he was optimistic that the market would soon become very active again as there are good opportunities for the investors at the moment. In the past week, Jaber said, the financial market witnessed a sudden spate of activity, following agreement among the Middle East parties to take part in a peace conference. He said peace and stability, or even 'talk about them,' were bound to be beneficial for the market's daily operations. The establishment of peace in the Middle East and the return of international financial aid to Jordan, to compensate the country for its huge losses sustained during the Gulf crisis, would no doubt bring about real boom to the country's economy, said Jaber. Stability and peace, he said, would no doubt open the way for the share-holding companies to promote their businesses and flourish. He said the industrial sector in particular is invited now to benefit from the situation and to embark on projects that would not only earn them good profits, but would also contribute to the development of the national economy. The writer said that the current low prices of companies encourage investments and buying and selling operations. He said that the investors would be wise enough to seize the golden opportunity now and take a step that would ensure their success in the years to come.

### The View From Fourth Circle

## Time to end the games that kill

of the several million Jews amongst us is no longer a brake on the development of our region.

- 3). The mechanics of the peace conference will soon prove reasonable for the Arabs, because for the first time since the start of the Palestinian-Zionist struggle in 1896 we have the following situation: direct Arab-Israeli negotiations are taking place in a political context that is based on the internationally sanctioned demand for exchanging land for peace. The entire world accepts the Palestinian right of self-determination, and demands that Israel withdraw from our occupied lands. Yet, the world has made it clear that it will do nothing to bring these two objectives about unless we all sit on a negotiating table and work out the details.

The advent of such a negotiating table will see Israel badly isolated from the rest of the world. It will try its old tricks of diverting attention from the core issues, stalling, lying, obscuring, and anything else it deems appropriate to avert the day of reckoning — the day when it must withdraw from the lands it occupied in 1967, and coexist with a self-determinant Palestinian people living in freedom on Palestinian soil. Israel will find itself under intense international pressure to live within defined borders — and it and the Palestinian national entity will enjoy all necessary international security guarantees.

- 4). The negotiations will shift the terms of reference of the Palestinian-Zionist or Arab-Israeli conflict from Israel's U.S.-backed military superiority to the arena of legal rights and moral dictates — an arena in which we are far more powerful than the Israelis. In a structured negotiation based formally on the principles of resolutions 242 and 338, we have the opportunity at last to translate the powerful international support for Palestinian rights into tangible facts. The conference provides the mechanism to shift the centre of gravity of the Middle East conflict from Israel's military arguments, to our arguments about the need to implement U.N. resolutions.

There are dozens and dozens of U.N. resolutions condemning Israel's illegal actions in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. In a negotiating context, those resolutions provide us with moral and legal firepower. Our challenge is to use them effectively, and to refuse to fall into the traps that Israel will keep trying to set for us — traps such as yesterday's Israeli criticism of Syria for the attacks against Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon. Here is a good case study of Israeli diversionary tactics in action.

Israel wants to brand the Arabs as terrorists and inveterate killers who wish only to drink the blood of Jewish children, and it wants to lay a moral claim for its own security as enjoying a greater priority than the rights or security of the Arabs. What is our appropriate response? First, pity for Israeli leaders so psychologically ravaged that they have brought three millennia of Jewish morality to the point where its sharpest focus is on warfare and guns. Second, composure and a steady diplomatic focus on the real issues at hand, which are the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights, in this case. Third, we do the James Baker Diplomatic Tango — recalling what he himself said on a visit to Yemen last autumn, during the Gulf crisis, we simply repeat his words, to the effect that this conflict is all about the credibility of U.N. resolutions. If the Israelis do not want their soldiers killed in southern Lebanon, those soldiers should not be in southern Lebanon. Isn't that more or less what the world said about Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait, or

does my memory play tricks on me? Or is there a special U.N. morality for Israel and another for the Arabs? We shall soon find out.

- 5). As the world focuses on the core conflict in Palestine and the issue of land and sovereignty, and seeks to resolve it by implementing U.N. resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw and its settlements, and stop its illegal practices that deny the Palestinians their human rights, the Israelis will panic. They have started to do so, because they understand, perhaps better than most of us do, that this peace conference is the beginning of the end of the Israeli game that has lasted for nearly a century — the game of claiming superior moral rights, national claims, security interests, and historical patrimony.

Israel is being asked to live by the same rules that other states and people live by. It has never been able to do so since 1947, and will have a hard time learning to do so. But in the end it will have to do so, or else risk perpetual conflict in this region. Such conflict will see it one day destroyed in a blaze of guns, as all other foreign colonial experiments in the Arab World have been destroyed with time. Why should the Israelis be the only people in the world who can use military force to forever subjugate the majority amongst whom they

The Israelis can either come to terms with their greater Arab/Islamic environment now and accept peace terms that give them the security they demand — or they can keep collecting nuclear bombs and get ready to die along with us in a great nuclear holocaust one day in the early years of the 21st century. There is no alternative. Perpetual Arab subjugation to Zionist frenzy is not possible. Either we all enjoy equal national rights, or none of us lives in peace and security. I suspect the majority of Israelis would choose peace with the Arabs, based on equal justice for Israelis and Arabs, rather than eternal warfare.

- 6). The Madrid peace conference is the most serious international effort this century to achieve the goal of equal justice for Arabs and Israelis. Should it succeed, Israel will have to come to terms with life as a normal state, rather than an imperial one. With time, in a peaceful and productive Middle East, Israelis will revert to their ancient role — a small Jewish minority living in a large, powerful and ancient Arab/Islamic World, a world that has always considered them part of its heritage, and its future.

The Israelis will have a hard time making the adjustment from super state to boring, normal state. They will be unwilling to give up the self-declared moral privileges they claim according to their self-generated status as God's chosen people. They will be pained to learn that their game is over, and that we must all live as God's children, equally loved by him. This runs against everything that Jews and Israelis have been taught for the last several thousand years.

They have told themselves that they are special, distinct; chosen. The world will tell them at Madrid that they are none of these things, that they are one state among nearly 200 others in the world. They can fantasise all they want about special morality and a higher calling in the realm of the heavens, but here on earth they must live according to the rules of man — and the rules of man apply equally to all people. This is the significance of what will happen at Madrid. Let us hope it succeeds, for if it does all of us in the Semitic family shall be equal winners, and we can all stop playing games that kill.

## Serbia faces isolation both home and abroad

By Dusko Stejanovic  
The Associated Press

BELGRADE — Serbia's rejection of a plan that would turn Yugoslavia from a nation torn by civil war into a loose alliance of sovereign states threatens to worsen the republic's isolation at home and abroad.

Hardline Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic rejected the European Community plan at a peace conference Friday in the Hague, the Netherlands.

More than 1,000 people have died in fighting that began in the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia when the republic declared its independence June 25. It pits

Croatian troops against ethnic Serb militants and the Serb-dominated Federal Army.

Among the compromises proposed in the EC plan, Serbia would have to recognise rival Croatia's existing borders and independence.

Except for Serbia, all of Yugoslavia's six republics, including the close Serbian ally Montenegro, accepted the plan. They called it imperfect but said rejecting it could lead to full-scale war.

Mr. Milosevic said the plan is unacceptable because it "annuls Yugoslavia as a country" and rejects the possibility of changing its internal borders, which he said

"are administrative" and not permanent. Mr. Milosevic favours making Yugoslavia a centralised federation.

The proposed EC ban on changing borders conflicts with Mr. Milosevic's apparent aim of expanding Serbian territory at the expense of neighbouring Croatia.

Mr. Milosevic said the EC proposal has to be "reworded" before it would be acceptable to Serbia. Yugoslavia's leaders are scheduled to meet with EC officials in the Hague again on Oct. 25.

Mr. Milosevic's hardline stands, which have contributed to

the breakup of Yugoslavia, have so far been fully supported only by Montenegro, the smallest republic.

In a reversal, Montenegro's President Momir Bulatovic voted for the EC plan on Friday.

This indicated a serious rift between Serbia and Montenegro, both ruled by socialists, and increased Serbia's political isolation in Yugoslavia.

In a statement to the state Tanjug news agency, Mr. Bulatovic said by accepting the EC proposal he voted for the peaceful resolution of the Yugoslav crisis and against "radical" solutions advocated by Serbia.

The European Community, a leader in efforts to resolve the crisis, has said the warring republics must reach an agreement within two months. If not, the EC said, the community's 12 member nations would recognise Croatia and its secessionist ally Slovenia.

Several EC officials have said that if Serbia continues to block the agreement, it faces tough political and economic sanctions.

Throughout the fighting, Serbia has insisted that Croatia's

### LETTERS

## Sheikh Yasin and Israeli 'justice'

To the Editor:

ONE could hardly believe one's eyes seeing, on the TV news, a disabled old man being sentenced by an Israeli court to life plus 15 years imprisonment. The justification for such a harsh sentence was said to be the verdict that the old man, Sheikh Ahmad Yasin, had been in Israeli detention awaiting the trial for more than two and a half years, and his trial, was postponed several times. During his detention, he was harassed, tortured and beaten, and his health deteriorated. He had to be taken to the military hospital several times.

Israel's brutality has set a record. The Jews who claim to be victims of Nazi practices are exceeding all bounds in inflicting physical and psychological injury on Palestinian detainees. Indiscriminate shooting of civilians, demolition of houses, confiscation of lands, detention of tens of thousands of men, women, children and elderly citizens, and the deportation of scores of activists are all examples of Zionism's repressive measures.

The issue of Sheikh Ahmad Yasin is a special case. It deserves world attention. His detention and sentence by Zionist captors constitute an overt violation of human rights and of international norms and laws. It is evident that the Israelis meant to try Sheikh Yasin at this particular time in order to escape world attention, since most of the attention has been directed by the preparations for the peace conference.

It is most regrettable that the United States, the Soviet Union, and other European states which co-sponsor the peace process have made no attempt to intervene in order to save the disabled, ill and elderly Sheikh Yasin. Such powers could at least have shown some concern if they were really anxious about the accomplishment of a permanent, just settlement in the Middle East.

The trial of Sheikh Yasin has proven beyond doubt that the Zionist occupation authorities are not serious about achieving a lasting just settlement in the region. If this is the Israeli sense of justice, no peaceful settlement can ever be guaranteed to endure.

Azzam Tamini,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

## Israel seeks foreign investment to help settle Soviet immigrants

By Miriam Jordan  
Reuters

JERUSALEM — Israel, desperate for cash to settle up to a million Soviet immigrants, is seeking to lure foreign investors with an array of financial inducements.

But hard-headed industrialists say only the success of Middle East peace talks and liberalisation of Israel's state-dominated economy will bring in the foreign funds.

Normally conservative businessmen and economic officials have been unusually outspoken in questioning Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's handling of an economy plagued by high inflation, low foreign investment and a chronic budget deficit.

At the same time relations with the United States, Israel's biggest aid donor, have soured over U.S. attempts to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference by the end of October.

Washington, which pumps in more than \$3 billion a year in economic and military aid, has postponed, \$10 billion of loan guarantees that Israel needs to house an exodus of Soviet Jews until after the conference.

"The political factor is essential. The government offers great packages but until there is a peace treaty there will not be masses of foreign investment," said Jonathan Kolber, president of Claridge Israel Inc., part of Canada's Bronfman Group.

The group, which is a major

shareholder in Du Pont and Seagram, has \$300 million invested in Israel. Mr. Kolber said that before the Gulf war, Claridge was competing with several foreigners to buy a chunk of Israel's Osem food group.

"When the war broke out, most of our competitors quit because they were too nervous," he said.

"Clearly the prospect of peace negotiations is extremely important. Even if they go on for 25 years, it's enough. Once we go towards solving the conflict, this is what matters," said Dov Fruchman, head of U.S.-owned computer firm Intel Israel.

Dov Lautman, president of Israel's manufacturers Association, agrees: "I would like to hope our leadership will take into account that political stability is a condition for foreign investment in Israel. And without foreign investment it will be very difficult (to settle the immigrants)," he said.

Soviet immigration is expected to swell Israel's workforce by a third by the mid-1990s. Israel needs to create half a million new jobs and raise growth to 13 per cent a year to accommodate the influx, the Trade and Industry Ministry says.

While local business investment is keeping pace with population growth — 17 per cent in 1990 and an expected 24 per cent in 1991 — it falls well short of Israel's projected needs.

"You might say that our biggest economic priority today is to attract foreign investment," said

Amos Rubin, economic adviser to Mr. Shamir.

Domestic capital accounts for more than 95 per cent of investment in Israel. Only one per cent of Israeli workers are employed by foreign firms, compared with 10 per cent in Belgium and Singapore and three per cent in the United States.

Last year the government introduced tax breaks and a financial risk-sharing scheme to attract foreign funds.

But bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel says Israel must curb inflation and state intervention in the economy.

"To create an atmosphere conducive to investment there must be an atmosphere of economic stability. The inflation issue must be confronted," he told a recent foreign investment seminar.

International Business Machines Corp., Motorola Inc., Digital equipment corp., Vishay Intertechnology Inc. and National Semiconductor Corp. are among high-technology companies here. But all came before hyperinflation gripped Israel in the 1980s.

Annual inflation was 18 per cent in 1990 and is expected to exceed 20 per cent this year.

Industrialists praise workers' commitment and skills.

Engineers and technicians make up 15 per cent of the workforce, one of the highest ratios in the world. newcomers from the cream of the Soviet industrial and academic world will boost the figure.

But Israel faces stiff competition from low labour-cost nations

like Mexico and Thailand.

It has also failed to attract European and Japanese investors, who have been more inclined to abide by an Arab boycott — although it has weakened since the Gulf war.

## Stand on regional talks to be decided soon

(Continued from page 1)

multi-party discussions on issues such as water resources, regional disarmament and the environment before reaching a peace agreement with Israel.

"We are still studying this issue and we have not taken a final decision," Dr. Abu Jaber said. "We hope by the end of this week things will be clearer."

Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians have said that they would not take part in such talks prior to Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

According to PLO officials, one of the agreements reached between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in talks in Damascus Saturday was that both sides saw the talks, proposed to begin two weeks after the opening of the Madrid conference on Oct. 30, as futile as long as Israel had not withdrawn from the occupied territories.

Asked how Jordan viewed an assertion by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that his country would attend the Madrid confer-

ence only as an observer, Dr. Abu Jaber said: "Egypt is not an observer. On the contrary Egypt is an essential party to the peace process and we are hoping to seek its help at the conference," he did not elaborate.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters in Cairo Monday that Egypt was not going to be a mediator at the conference but would assume such a role if explicitly requested by others.

"We are part of the Arab position," Mr. Moussa said. "We have the advantage that we can talk with Israel at any time. But if we are asked to help, Egypt will then play the role of mediator."

The Egyptian announcement that it will be an observer at the conference has come as a surprise; particularly that many expected Egypt, the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel, to assume a prominent role in the party. In addition, the status of the residents of the occupied Gaza Strip who hold Egyptian documents is believed to be one of the topics that have to be discussed with Egypt's involvement with Israel.

**Hostage released despite Israeli attack**

(Continued from page 1)

SLA men in the zone Israel controls in the south, were on "maximum alert" since the bomb attack Sunday on an Israeli patrol.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the explosion.

An SLA communiqué, warned residents of 12 villages near the "security zone" against "outdoor movements, whether on foot or by vehicle, until further notice."

Yitzhak Rabin, commander of Israeli forces in the security zone, also warned residents not to cooperate with the guerrillas, especially with the Hizbullah "or else your life will be very difficult."

Monday's prisoner releases started eight hours after ILLP said it would release a hostage within 24 hours.

The highest ranking Shiite cleric in Lebanon, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, said Monday's raid, Israel's 16th into Lebanon this year, would not

affect the pledged hostage release.

"The hostage issue is heading to an end irrespective of the raid," Sheikh Shamseddine told reporters at his Beirut office.

"I do not believe that the Israeli aggression would be linked to the hostage issue. The hostage issue is linked to regional and international developments," said Sheikh Ahmad Taleb, the prayer leader in the village hit by the air raid.

Sheikh Taleb replaced Sheikh Obeid as imam in Jibsheet after he was kidnapped by Israel. Sheikh Obeid's release is a top Hizbullah priority in the swaps.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said 14 prisoners, 12 Shiites and two Greek Orthodox Christians, were released from the Khatami prison in the "security zone."

The Shiites included two women.

Israel also released from its Ramleh jail Hizbullah activist Ali Fawaz about one hour later.

## Shamir says he has to vet team

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian sources said Washington was issuing 20 invitations for Palestinians to join the talks — 14 for the delegation, 10 for the talks and six for advisers.

"Nobody spoke to us of that," Mr. Shamir said when questioned at the airport. "And we didn't agree to such a thing. That truly surprises us."

Despite Mr. Shamir's continuing unease about a PLO involvement in the peace talks, other figures in the right-wing government played down the significance of PLO influence in the Palestinian delegation.

Yosef Hadas, director-general of the foreign ministry, brushed aside Dr. Abdul Shafiq's com-

mments, noting U.S. assurances the PLO would not be represented in the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

On Sunday, Defence Minister Moshe Arens had said there was "no doubt that the PLO is in the picture" but was pleased they had no official role.

In a front-page commentary in Israel's Davar newspaper, Ephraim Sneh, once the senior Israeli official in the occupied territories, said the decision to enter peace talks had finally opened the way to talks with the PLO and Palestinian delegation.

By deciding to participate in the Madrid conference, the government in fact lifted the taboo on negotiations with the PLO," Mr. Sneh said.

**Arafat meets Mubarak in Cairo**

(Continued from page 1)

PLO to attend the conference at some point. "Each and every person among the Palestinian people represents the PLO," he replied. "This is our charter."

Israel has threatened to walk out of the peace conference if

Palestinian participants profess links to the PLO.

Mr. Arafat said U.S. assurances to the PLO on the Madrid talks were still insufficient.

Asked about the thorny problem of representation for Palestinians from East Jerusalem, he said, "wait until the conference to see how we have solved this."

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## Sampdoria smothered by own success

ROME (AP) — No one said that Sampdoria of Genoa would have an easy time repeating last season's Italian first division soccer championship.

Then again, no one said that it would be so hard.

"When God doesn't give you a hand, things will always take a bad turn," said Sampdoria's Yugoslav coach Vujadin Boskov after his team lost 2-0 to Atalanta of Bergamo to home Sunday.

"All in all, we deserved to lose."

In Sunday's top match, Juventus of Turin nipped Napoli 1-0 to climb into a first place tie with AC Milan at 10 points.

Milan, which downed Parma 3-0, still has one match to make up.

Napoli, Torino, AS Roma, and Inter are tied for second place with nine points.

Life has been anything but easy for Sampdoria this year. After winning its first league title last season, the defending Italian champion has lost three of its first seven matches. In comparison, Sampdoria lost just three times in 34 matches last season. And at

seven points, the Genoa club is four points off last year's championship pace.

"Sampdoria is experiencing the typical letdown of a team coming off a season where everything just seemed to fall into place," observed journalist Italo Cucci on the Sunday sports television show Domani Sport.

"Last season, each player played and ran and fought as hard as he could. This year, as champions, the team seems to think it can obtain the same results without the same effort. It's not a conscious decision. But you tend to remember the success more than you remember the sweat that went into it."

Sampdoria's season opener, a 3-2 away loss to Cagliari, hardly augured well for Boskov and company. But the team bounced back with three wins and a draw in four matches including consecutive 4-0 thrashings of Inter and Ascoli. Then two weeks ago, Sampdoria fell 2-1 to Parma. And at Genoa's Luigi Ferraris Stadium, where Sampdoria had not lost in nine months and had not surrendered a goal this season,

Boskov's team was thoroughly outplayed by Atalanta.

"We lost because we kept making the same mistake," said Boskov after the contest. "Instead of working the ball to the wings, we kept trying to break through the middle. And this just opened the door for the Atalanta fast break."

Brazilian forward Carlos Bianchi and Argentine winger Claudio Caniggia, perhaps the league's swiftest attack tandem, were always a step ahead of defenders Pietro Vierchowod and Moreno Mammuri. Sampdoria forwards Gianluca Viali and Roberto Mancini were largely contained by Atalanta's Carlo Cannacchia and Sergio Porrini.

"I've never seen Viali and Mancini mark so closely," Boskov said.

Bianchi put Atalanta into the lead on a splendid goal in the 23rd minute. Fielding a pass with his back to the Sampdoria net, the speedy Brazilian pivoted to his right and let fly with a 20-metre drive that dipped beneath the outstretched arms of netminder Giacinto Pagutica.

"At halftime, (Atalanta goaltender Fabrizio) Ferron told me to shoot more often because the ball was very light and tended to do tricks. He was right."

Six minutes later, Ferron foiled Mancini on a penalty kick to preserve the Atalanta lead. "I knew that Mancini liked to shoot to the left of the goaltender, and it worked out that way," the Atalanta netminder said after the win.

At 67 minutes, Caniggia tapped in the rebound of another Bianchi shot to put Atalanta ahead 2-0, a lead that Atalanta protected until the final whistle.

"It was the first time I had all my players healthy this season, and it showed," said Atalanta coach Bruno Giorgi after the win. "The secret of today's success? Tight defence and fast break."

Boskov is hardly ready to give up on another championship.

"How many points does Juventus have? Ten? And we have seven. There are still 27 matches left to play. These three losses will make us think. But that's all. It's not close to being over."

—Same in front of the grandstand. Sky Classic, which won \$55,000 for its owner Ernie Samuel of Sam-Son Farm, may go on to compete in the Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs on Nov. 2.

The chestnut finished strongly, pulling away to win by a length and a half from Panoramic, ridden by Steve Cauthen and owned by the Agha Khan. In third place, a length back, was Tot Of Rum, ridden by Daniel David and from the same stable as the winner.

Pat Day had difficulties re-training his winning mount.

"That's as bad as a break as we've seen this year," said Veterinarian Dr. Robert McMartin, who recommended destroying Izvestia. "There's no way to surgically repair this."

## Sky Classic wins Rothmans International

TORONTO (R) — Sky Classic ridden by Pat Day won the Rothmans International run over 1 1/2 miles (2.4 km) on turf at Toronto's Woodbine Track Sunday in a record time of two minutes 27.8 seconds.

The four-year-old colt, a firm favourite at 3-5, relished the firm going and chilly weather to become the first Canadian-bred horse to win the race since He's A Smoothie in 1967.

But the home crowd's cheers were muted by the sight of Izvestia, which won the Canadian Triple Crown in 1990, pulling up

—Same in front of the grandstand. Sky Classic, which won \$55,000 for its owner Ernie Samuel of Sam-Son Farm, may go on to compete in the Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs on Nov. 2.

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## Sampras gains victory in Lyon

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Stich wins Vienna tournament

VIENNA (AP) — Michael Stich repeated his straight-set victory over Jan Siemerink of a week ago, beating the Dutchman 6-4, 6-4 to win the \$250,000 CA Trophy. It was Stich's fourth title this season and fifth overall and the 171 points for the victory would likely move him past Jim Courier into third on the ATP Tour computer rankings. "I did what was basically necessary," Stich said. "I knew that Jim could do me no harm."

#### Portuguese dominate Lisbon Marathon

LISBON (AP) — Mario Sousa set a personal best of two hours, 15 minutes and 21 seconds Sunday to win the Lisbon Marathon as Portuguese runners dominated in fine autumn weather along the banks of the River Tagus. Portuguese men swept the top three and its women the first two in the 42.195-kilometre race that drew 1,200 runners and finished in front of the city's Jeronimos Monastery. Gilberto Fernandes fell off Sousa's closing pace with 2 kilometres remaining and finished seven seconds behind Sousa, while Jose Santos was third 61 seconds behind Sousa but nine seconds ahead of the Soviet Union's Alexander Ermachov. Rita Barrobo won the Women's race to set a new course record of 2 hours, 38 minutes and 39 seconds. Monica Gama finished second in 2 hours, 40 minutes and 38 seconds, and Czeslawa Menciwicz of Poland took third place in 2 hours, 44 minutes and 26 seconds.

#### Atletico Madrid tops Spanish League

MADRID (R) — Atletico Madrid went to the top of the Spanish soccer first division Sunday by inflicting Real Oviedo's first home defeat for 18 months. Atletico won 1-0 — their sixth consecutive victory — to capture the lead from Real Madrid, who fell to second place after drawing 1-1 at home to defending champions Barcelona Saturday. Juan Viczaino fired Atletico's winner in the 53rd minute from pass by Paulo Futre. Real Burgos' goalkeeper Agustin Elduayen saved a late penalty against visitors Real Valladolid to help his team stay third in the table.

#### Williams retains boxing title

WILLIAMSON (AP) — Light heavyweight champion Charles Williams felt some pain in his eighth successful title defence, but it was the kind boxers must endure. "I'm glad they stopped it when they did," Williams told his trainers. "I could feel it in my right hand when I was hitting him." Williams' hand probably didn't hurt as much as sixth-ranked contender Fred Delgado's head.

#### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH  
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### STRIPTEASE SHOW

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**

♦ 6 5 3

♦ A J 10 2

♦ A K 8 3

♦ A 9 8 3

**WEST**

♦ 9 10 9 4

♦ K 4 3

♦ Q 6 3 2

♦ 7 4 ♠

**EAST**

♦ 6 5 4

♦ 9 7 6

♦ 10 8 7 5

♦ 4 ♠

**SOUTH**

♦ A K 7 2

♦ Q 6 5

♦ Q 4

♦ K 10 5 2

**Opening lead:** Nine of ♦

For a perfect elimination, you need to strip all the side suits before throwing in one of the opponents.

But there are times when you can't eliminate all the suits, either because of a lack of trumps or because you cannot afford to surrender a trick. Your one hope, then, is that a partial elimination will succeed.

North had a very fine hand, but was a little aggressive. The three low

spades and the fact the club support was only moderate should have suggested caution. At North's third turn we would have preferred three no trump. A poor slam was made even worse by the fact the diamond queen was a wasted value.

West chose to lead diamond, and declarer found himself looking at an apparently sure loser in each of the black suits. However, South was not one to lower the flag without a fight.

After winning the king of diamonds, declarer cashed the ace-king of trumps and breathed a sigh of relief when the sun divided favourably. Next came a low heart to the ten, and another bunt was crossed when that held. A spade to the king provided the entry for another heart finesse. Declarer then completed his groundwork by cashing the ace of diamonds and spades and then leading the queen of hearts.

The 3-3 heart break permitted declarer to discard a spade loser on the 13th heart. East discarded a diamond on this trick, briefly postponing the moment of truth. Declarer exited with a trump and East, down to nothing but diamonds, was forced to lead that suit, enabling declarer to pitch his remaining spades while ruffing in dummy. Six clubs, bid and made!

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I CAN'T DO THIS MATH PROBLEM... IT HAS THREE'S AND FOUR'S IN IT...

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT'LL YOU DO WHEN YOU GET TO EIGHT'S AND NINE'S?

I'LL BE SICK THAT DAY...

OH, MATT, WILL YOU MAIL THIS LETTER FOR ME ON YOUR WAY?

SURE!

WAIT A SECOND! WHERE'S THE ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPE?

NO ADDRESS? WELL, WHO DOES IT GO TO?

NOBODY! WHO WROTE A LETTER AND YOU'RE SENDING IT TO NOBODY? NOBODY! WHATCHA WRITE IN THE LETTER?

NOTHING!

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I CAN'T DO PROBLEMS THAT HAVE THREE'S AND FOUR'S IN THEM...

YOU'VE GOT A VACANCY

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# Economy

**Financial Markets**  
In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank  
U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 18/10/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 21/10/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7265	1.7210
Deutsche Mark	1.6873	1.6917
Swiss Franc	1.4755	1.4809
French Franc	5.7515	5.7600**
Japanese Yen	129.85	130.68
European Currency Unit	1.2135	1.2123**

\* USD Per STC  
\*\* European Opening @ 8.20 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		Date: 21/10/91		
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.125	5.40	5.25	5.50
Sterling Pound	10.45	10.18	10.72	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.72	9.31	9.31	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.25	8.12	8.-
French Franc	8.87	9.06	9.12	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.43	6.25	5.93	5.59
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.78	9.78	9.68

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Month Dates: 21/10/91

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	365.35	7.10	Silver	4.77	0.092

\* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Dates: 21/10/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.685	0.687
Sterling Pound	1.7787	1.7846
Deutsche Mark	0.4051	0.4071
Swiss Franc	0.4629	0.4650
French Franc	0.7188	0.7194
Japanese Yen*	0.5259	0.5285
Dutch Guilder	0.3594	0.3612
Swedish Krona	0.1105	0.1111
Italian Lira*	0.0542	0.0545
Belgian Franc	0.0197	0.0198

\* Per 100

Other Currencies Dates: 21/10/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.787	1.797
Lebanese Lira*	0.0777	0.0774
Saudi Riyal	0.1824	0.1834
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1858	0.1868
Egyptian Pound	0.205	0.2118
Omani Riyal	1.754	1.764
UAE Dirham	0.1858	0.1868
Greek Drachma*	0.3698	0.3798
Cypriot Pound	1.455	1.465

\* Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market:

Index	19/10/91	Close	20/10/91	Close
All-Share	123.17	123.92	123.45	123.92
Banking Sector	103.45	104.42	103.50	104.42
Insurance Sector	125.56	125.82	125.50	125.82
Industry Sector	152.59	153.47	152.50	153.47
Services Sector	132.72	133.06	132.70	133.06

December 31, 1990 = 100

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7212/22	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1271/76	Deutschmarks	Deutschmarks
	1.6875/85	Dutch guilders	Dutch guilders
1.9025/35		Swiss francs	Swiss francs
1.4775/85		Belgian francs	Belgian francs
34.7074		French francs	French francs
5.7550/7600		Italian lire	Italian lire
1262/1263		Japanese yen	Japanese yen
130.45/55		Swedish crowns	Swedish crowns
6.1500/50		Norwegian crowns	Norwegian crowns
6.6100/50		Danish crowns	Danish crowns
6.5200/50		U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	362.60/363.10		

Cinema Tel: 677420  
**CONCORD**

## RED HEAT

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144  
**PHILADELPHIA**

## Girls Just Want To Have Fun

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571  
**Nabil Al Makhni Theatre**

## 1. SOMERSAULT TIME PLAY

Show: daily 8:30 p.m.

## 2. Children play

## ★THE TREASURE AND THE SEA★

Show: daily 10:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625153  
**RAINBOW**

## Tom Selleck in HER ALIBI

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

# Economic reports raise fears of U.S. slip back into recession

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Unsettling news about the U.S. economy have ended with reports that housing starts had lost their vigour, raising new fears about the country sliding back into recession.

Construction of new houses and blocks of flats fell a modest 2.2 per cent in September, the Commerce Department has said, ending a mini-boom of five consecutive monthly increases.

Recent data suggest the economic recovery, which many economists believe began in spring after a year of recession, is uneven and halting.

As pessimism about the economy gained ground, the pressure has increased on President George Bush to take action to stimulate consumer and business activity. He met Thursday with Republican leaders and top bankers to discuss how to spur growth.

At best, analysts surveying the new data said, America's economy will grow slowly in the coming months, but not as fast as the 2.5 to three per cent rate forecast by the White House for the second half of this year.

"We think there will be enough stimulus from lower mortgage

rates and lower auto loans rates to keep growth positive. But it will be a very slow, half-speed recovery," said Cynthia Latta, an analyst at DRU/McGraw Hill, a Lexington, Massachusetts economic forecasting firm.

At worst, the economy will slip back into the recession which began in July 1990, a phenomenon referred to as a "double dip."

"I'd say there's about a 40 per cent probability" of a double-dip recession, said Marco Babic, senior financial analyst at Evans Economics in Washington.

Michael Boskin, President Bush's economic adviser, insisted on Thursday the economy was still on a "moderate growth path."

But a raft of largely negative economic statistics sparked many independent analysts to be less optimistic, although they cautioned that trends were confusing.

The only other real bright spot in the economy also faltered last week. Industrial production grew a scant one-tenth of a percentage point in September, flattening out after seven months of growth.

Perhaps the most negative report was a poll by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce which said business people are even more pessimistic about the future than they were in the recession.

Only 23.6 per cent expect the economy to turn around.

The chamber predicts that the third quarter just finished will show 1.8 per cent growth, but the economy will shrink in the fourth quarter and the first quarter of 1992.

"A small dip into recession is a 60 per cent probability. Thus 'double-dip' becomes our official forecast," the chamber economic outlook, by economist William Macneil said.

Despite the official optimism, Mr. Bush met with Republican leaders to map out a strategy to spur growth. He later met with bankers, whom he frequently has urged to boost their lending and get spending more.

Republicans fear that a stalled economy with persistent unemployment and rising prices could prove a blight on President Bush's otherwise rosy re-election chances next fall.

Senator Phil Gramm of Texas

said he thought a new "pro-growth" package would emerge from the White House early this week.

In other areas, U.S. consumer prices, buffeted by higher costs for energy, food and housing, jumped 0.4 per cent last month in the biggest inflation spurt since January.

The country's merchandise trade deficit also widened dramatically as overseas demand for American products took a nosedive.

Economists blamed the worse-than-expected inflation number for the most part on temporary factors, but they worried that the other reports depicted a listless economic recovery losing little momentum it had.

Manufacturing and export sales

had been among the few bright spots as the economy has struggled to break free of the 1990-91 recession.

"This is not a good report card on the performance of the U.S. economy," said Allen Sinai, chief economist of the Boston Co. "We are seeing a fading of momentum on the industrial side of the economy along with higher inflation than we had been running."

He did not believe a constitutional reform redefining the relationship between state governments and the central authority was necessary to meet economic targets agreed in outline with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The relationship with the state government depends on constitutional amendments but they are in financial equilibrium because the central government does not allow them to borrow," he said.

Mr. Marques said \$8 billion had flowed into Brazil in the first nine months of 1991, up from \$5.6 billion in the whole of 1990, and he expected a trade surplus of \$12 billion for the year.

The recent lifting of price freeze had triggered a surge in inflation, which rose above 16 per cent per month in September.

"This is not a brilliant figure, of course," Mr. Marques said. "But it was part of the process of unfreezing prices."

## Brazil says it can raise \$18b from privatisation

BANGKOK (R) — Brazil could raise up to \$18 billion from privatisation and might reduce its external debt by even more through debt-to-equity conversions, Finance Minister Marcilio Marques said.

## 'Cataclysm' of new fighting wrecks Croatian tourist resorts

ZAGREB (R) — Fierce fighting has wrecked four tourist towns near the Croatian port of Dubrovnik and shattered a new ceasefire in the rebel republic, Croatian radio said Monday.

A cold snap and driving rain tempered fighting in Croatia Sunday night and media reports suggested the main battlefronts in the almost four-month conflict over Croatian independence moves were relatively quiet Monday.

But artillery barrages, mortar duels and automatic arms fire killed 18 people over the weekend and broke a ceasefire ordered Saturday by Croatia and the Yugoslav army, which backs Serbs opposing the republic's independence declaration.

Croatian radio described clashes Sunday near Dubrovnik, a major Adriatic tourist centre, as a "cataclysm."

"The world famous resorts of Zupa, Kupari, Plat and Milni are unrecognisable. Not a single hotel is still whole. The military resort in Kupari no longer exists," a Croatian radio reporter in the Dubrovnik region said, referring to a nearby hotel complex reserved for the armed forces.

"Despite orders for a ceasefire, fighting continued at a number of locations in Croatia Sunday... dashing hopes for a more permanent truce," Tanjug News Agency reported.

Dubrovnik and its historic medieval old town have been cut off by an army siege for some weeks. EC sources said the Hotel Argentina, where EC monitors are staying, was hit by machinegun fire and the city suburbs were shelled.

Shells landed in the sea Sunday about 300 kilometres from the walls of the old city, known as the "pearl of the Adriatic."

Despite the apparent easing of fighting overnight, the ceasefire looked to have little or no more

chance of success than nine previous truces that have failed.

More than 1,000 Croats and an unknown number of Serbs and federal soldiers have been killed in fighting since Croatia declared independence on June 25.

It is the worst fighting between the rival nationalities since World War II and threatens to engulf the whole of the Balkan country of 23.5 million in civil war.

Serbia and its three allies on the eight-member Yugoslav collective presidency accused Croatia of breaking the ceasefire accord worked out with the European Community at peace talks in the Hague Friday.

The representatives of Serbia, its provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina, and the Republic of Montenegro said Sunday Croatian forces had not abided by an agreement to lift blockades of federal army installations in the republic.

"People are afraid, of course, but morale is amazingly high. The people know they may die. But they will never give in," said Jasminka Ahmedbegovic, a 22-year-old Croatian economics student.

"The centre is demolished and there are no whole buildings left," said Zvonko Grebelj, 36, a Croat Guardsman injured two weeks ago by mortar fire.

The return journey for the convoy, arranged by the French charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), from the town in northeast Croatia to makeshift hospitals in Mikunovac and Djakovo west of Vukovar was a 12-hour nightmare.

The convoy was bogged down in mud, skirted potholes along back lanes and made an 80-kilometre detour. On the way one truck ran over a landmine, injuring two foreign nurses. No further evacuation convoys are expected.

Most left wives and children behind.

Wounded fighters and civilians from Vukovar, the rebel Croatian town besieged by the Yugoslav army, vowed Sunday their comrades would never surrender despite terrible conditions and dwindling supplies.

The defiant Croats were among 109 seriously wounded, mostly



A Croatian tank, followed by infantry, moves to attack Serbian positions in Croatia

police or guards, evacuated from Vukovar at the weekend in the first relief convoy to reach the town in almost two months.

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## Rebels, troops clash on Cambodian border

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian government forces and guerrillas clashed near the Thai border Monday, just two days before the scheduled signing of a peace agreement in Paris to end the civil war, a guerrilla faction said.

The fighting appeared to have been sparked by a dispute over control of cross-border trade. The sound of artillery fire could be heard in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) issued a statement in Bangkok accusing the Phnom Penh government of launching a series of attacks Sunday then following up with an artillery-backed assault on a KPNLF outpost at Prey Monday.

Clashes were still going on, the statement said.

"These well-coordinated and large-scale offensives go far beyond local trade problems," it said.

The Bangkok Post Monday quoted government soldiers in the market town of Poi Pet as saying they were attacked on Sunday by KPNLF guerrillas after they tightened up on traders carrying goods to a guerrilla-controlled market.

The Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh and an alliance of three guerrilla factions have been observing a ceasefire prior to the signing of a peace accord in Paris Wednesday to end 13 years of civil war.

There have been sporadic reports of minor skirmishes and artillery barrages but no serious fighting recently.

Cross-border trade has flourished at the Poi Pet market since it opened in June under an unprecedented agreement between the Phnom Penh government and Thai authorities.

Smuggling and trade controlled by the guerrillas has suffered as result.

The Poi Pet market opened Sunday after a brief dispute the day before between Thai and Cambodian soldiers over the arrest of four Khmer cigarette traders.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of unexploded landmines and spreading banditry pose two of the biggest obstacles to the repatriation of 350,000 Cambodian refugees from camps in Thailand, a senior U.N. official said.

The need to clear mines is more urgent than ever, Bjorn Johansson, head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Phnom Penh, said Sunday.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hanoi agrees to limited refugee deportation

HONG KONG (R) — Vietnam has agreed to allow the long-awaited forced repatriation of boat people, but the deal covers only a few of the 64,000 people in Hong Kong's camps, a government spokesman in the British colony said Monday. He said in a statement that the deal covered only "double backers" — Vietnamese who volunteered to go home and later came back to Hong Kong.

### Weekend death toll in S. Africa hits 35

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 35 people were killed in a weekend orgy of township violence across South Africa, striking another blow against an already-battered month-long peace accord, police said Monday. About 1,500 people have now died since the government, Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and its chief rival for political supremacy, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, signed a church and business-backed blueprint for peace. A police spokesman said the force had launched a massive manhunt for a gang of about 20 men who shot dead seven blacks in a seemingly random attack at Phola township near the Transvaal province town of Ories. He said nine people died in a vicious war for the right to run lucrative taxi from black settlements around Cape Town, seven of them when the taxis and the homes of operators were set alight by unknown arsonists.

### More U.S. troops to pull out of Korea

SEOUL (R) — The United States has told South Korea that it aims to reduce its military presence from current troop levels of more than 40,000 to 30,000 by 1995, a South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman said Monday. "It is true that the United States had said that it wanted to cut its presence to 30,000 troops by the year 1995," he said. "However, we have asked that the issue be discussed again in the coming U.S.-South Korean security talks next month."

### Space freighter links-up with Mir

MOSCOW (AP) — A cargo spacecraft docked the Mir space station Monday after failing in its first attempt to deliver supplies to two cosmonauts, the Soviet News Agency TASS said. TASS said the Progress M-10 spaceship linked up on the side of the mated station's adapter module. "I delivered fuel for the joint power unit, a ballistic capsule intended for returning to Earth, some scientific equipment, as well as drinking water," TASS said.

### Fire breaks out in British submarine

LONDON (R) — Fire broke out in a British nuclear-powered submarine Sunday at a navy base at Faslane, Scotland. A spokesman for the base said it was a minor incident dealt with by the crew with no nuclear implications.

### Sri Lankan troops poised to overrun Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Troops backed by air force bombers were poised to take the Tamil rebel-controlled town of Jaffna on Sri Lanka's northern peninsula, an independent newspaper said Monday. The key rebel stronghold, could fall "any moment now," the Island quoted Jaffna Commander Brigadier Wijaya Wimalaratne as saying. Military sources in Colombo declined to comment. Troops have gained control of five islands off Jaffna and destroyed rebel bunkers and strategic outposts. Gen. Wimalaratne said. The military sources said only that rebels had fled the islands in Operation Valampuri, an offensive that began Friday.

### Reagan returns to his Scottish roots

PAISLEY, Scotland (R) — Amid ceremony at Scotland's Blair Castle but apparently unaware of his bootlegging ancestry, Ronald Reagan became an honorary keeper of the keepers of the Quaich. They are a society of connoisseurs of Scotch whisky. Founded by top distillers, they also help promote the amber liquid from headquarters at Blair, ancestral seat of the 10th Duke of Atholl. However, Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, appeared unaware of the ancestral link between himself and the distilling business which the local Scots had dug up. They say one of his forebears was Johnnie Blue, the last moonshiner distiller on the Scottish peninsula of Kintyre.

## Soviet parliament opens with 7 republics attending

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking Monday at the first session of a re-constituted Supreme Soviet legislature, called for urgent new measures to preserve the Soviet Union and prevent economic disintegration.

Mr. Gorbachev said a draft of a treaty to create a new union of sovereign states was being re-advised for consideration by the remaining 12 republics.

Mr. Gorbachev said a draft of a

## Indian killer quake toll hits 375 and feared rising

LUCKNOW, India (R) — The death toll from a powerful earthquake that shattered several towns in the Himalayan foothills of north India rose to 375 Monday with reports from scores of remote villages still to come.

Explosives experts blew a gap in a landslide that blocked a river and formed a dam that could have burst and unleashed a flash flood, officials said.

Officials were hesitant in predicting a final toll.

"We should have a clearer picture later today when the helicopters have examined the hill villages and reported back," Simha said.

"These are scattered villages, easily cut off and landslides prone. Entire villages have been washed away in the past and we fear we will find many bodies under rubble."

Helicopters were mobilised Monday morning to reconnoitre the villages as progress on land was almost impossible, the official said.

Landslides often strike during the annual monsoon and officials said they feared entire communities may have vanished in the earthquake.

The villages are normally reached only by rough roads often washed away by monsoon rains.

In Uttarkashi, a town of 50,000 people, at least 300 died. More than 3,000 buildings in the town collapsed into rubble or were badly damaged, the officials said.

Another 60 bodies had been dug out of the rubble in the adjacent district of Tehri, they said.

Senior policeman D.P. Sinha said 375 bodies had been recovered and more than 1,800 people were in hospital.

"But who knows how many thousands we will be counting in eventually?" Mr. Sinha said of the injured.

The last major earthquake struck the Himalayan foothills in 1988, killing at least 900 people in eastern Nepal and the adjacent Indian state of Bihar.

## COLUMN

### U.S. sailors start to repair Kuwait Zoo

KUWAIT (R) — American sailors started repair work Sunday at Kuwait Zoo, damaged in the Gulf war. Up to 800 sailors of the USS L.Y. Spear, a submarine tender which arrived in Kuwait Saturday, will spend two days working in the zoo and will also carry out repair work at a school for the handicapped.

"We will repair cages, remove debris and other work like fix doors at the zoo," Captain Jay Cohen told journalists touring his ship the sailors had volunteered.

"The sailors are scattered villages, easily cut off and landslides prone. Entire villages have been washed away in the past and we fear we will find many bodies under rubble."

Helicopters had already spotted 200 people, including some foreign tourists, cut off in the village of Bujwaha some 10,500 feet (3,200 metres) above sea level, officials said.

The road to the village had vanished and the survivors might have to be evacuated by helicopter, they said.

The earthquake ripped out power lines, destroyed bridges and roads as Hindus, 80 per cent of India's 850 million people, were celebrating the main festivals of their religious year.

It was felt in western Nepal and in New Delhi, where it semi-peaked

and in New Delhi's Seismological Observatory measured the quake at 6.1 on the open-ended Richter Scale in an area subject to tremors created by northward movement of the Indian subcontinent squeezing the Himalayas against the Tibetan plateau and pushing them slowly higher.

The last major earthquake struck the Himalayan foothills in 1988, killing at least 900 people in eastern Nepal and the adjacent Indian state of Bihar.

The plane design was before a

new government takes over.

Mr. Major said the economy was crippled by zero growth with a three per cent annual increase in births and seven million unemployed.

Britain, which has already

ended most sanctions, argues that foreign investment should be allowed at once to help economic recovery in South Africa before a new government takes over.

Mr. Major said the economy was set to add seven lower house seats to its current two, according to a prediction made after more than 90 per cent of seats had been allocated.

The conference has agreed to a

phased elimination of sanctions, with trade restrictions going when all-party constitutional talks start and those on investment, but avoided the clash that had soured previous summits.

Prime Minister John Major told a news conference all 50 states agreed on the goal of encouraging constitutional talks to create a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

Mr. Gorbachev said a draft of a new union treaty has been prepared and he urged the Ukraine and the other republics to approve it. A copy has already been sent to the Ukrainian leadership, and "we hope to get a positive response from our Ukrainian brothers."

Mr. Gorbachev said the

new union treaty has been prepared and he urged the Ukraine and the other republics to approve it.

He also said the state should

take immediate steps to stabilise the ruble, reform taxes, give support to private businessmen, and make a "decisive breakthrough" in moving to a market economy.

Mr. Gorbachev further said any aid from the West should be given to farmers. "This would give the quickest benefits to the people," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev urged the 12 remaining republics, and in particular the Ukraine, to adopt a new union of sovereign states.

As long as the question of

union unresolved, he said, "any programme will stay on the level of wishful thinking."

However, Mr. Gorbachev was

optimistic that agreement on preserving the union would be

reached. "The feelings are strong in society, and they are growing in favour of a new union state, in which the sovereignty of republics is guaranteed."

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